

## Fall Frost/Freeze Information for Western and Central North Dakota

As we pass the half way point of September we should be aware that the growing season in western and central North Dakota is quickly coming to an end. We have already seen freezing temperatures over portions of the area. Below is an image from the Midwest Regional Climate Center in Champaign, Illinois showing observed 32°F temperatures through Friday September 14<sup>th</sup> at Cooperative Observer stations in North Dakota.

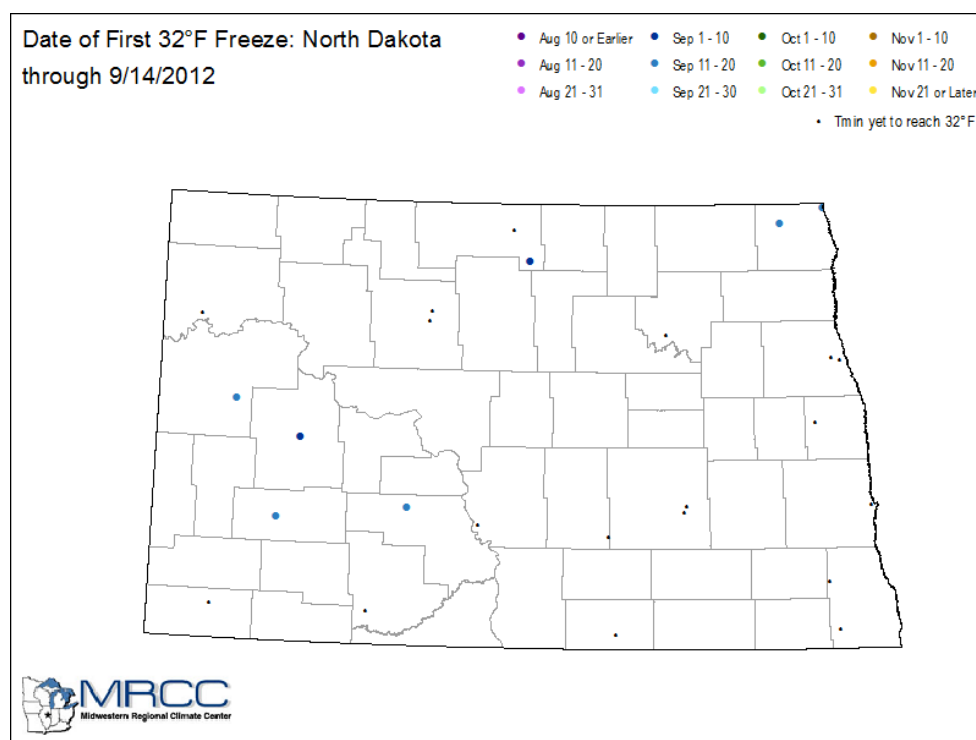


Figure 1) Date of First 32°F Freeze: North Dakota through 09/14/2012

The median date of a 32°F freeze based on the 1981 - 2010 average is shown in figure 2 on the page below. In western and central North Dakota this generally occurs in mid to late September (Sep 11 - 20, or Sep 21 - 30). The median date of a 28°F freeze based on the same 1981 - 2010 average ranges from late September to early October (Sep 21 - 30, or Oct 1 - 10), and is shown in figure 3.

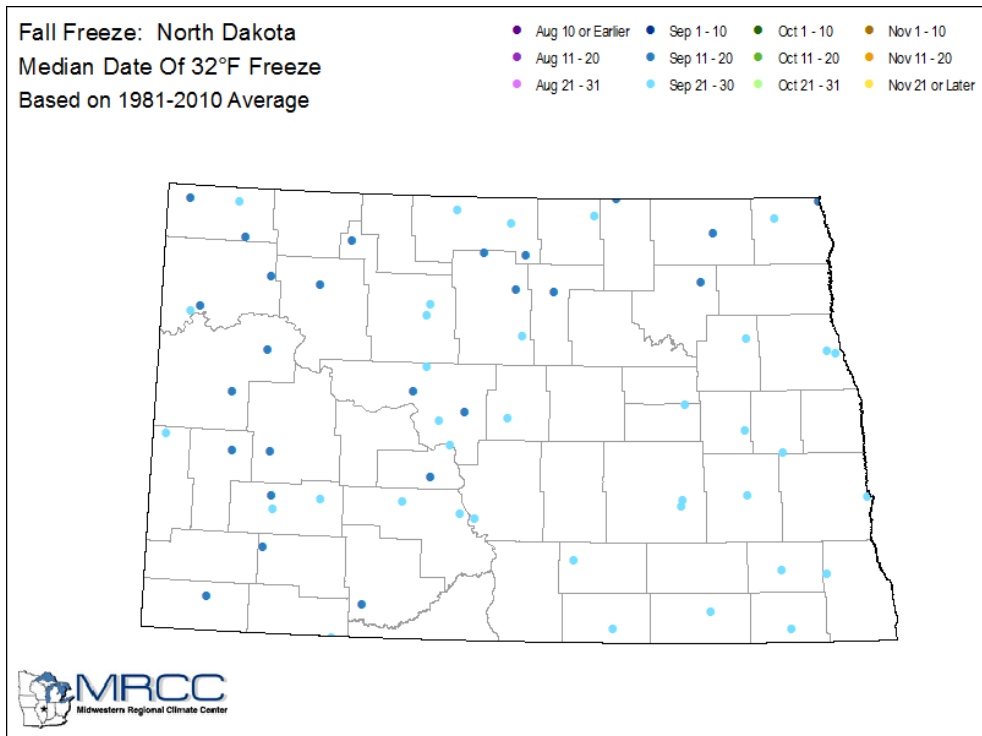


Figure 2) Median Date of 32°F Freeze Based on 1981 - 2010 Average.

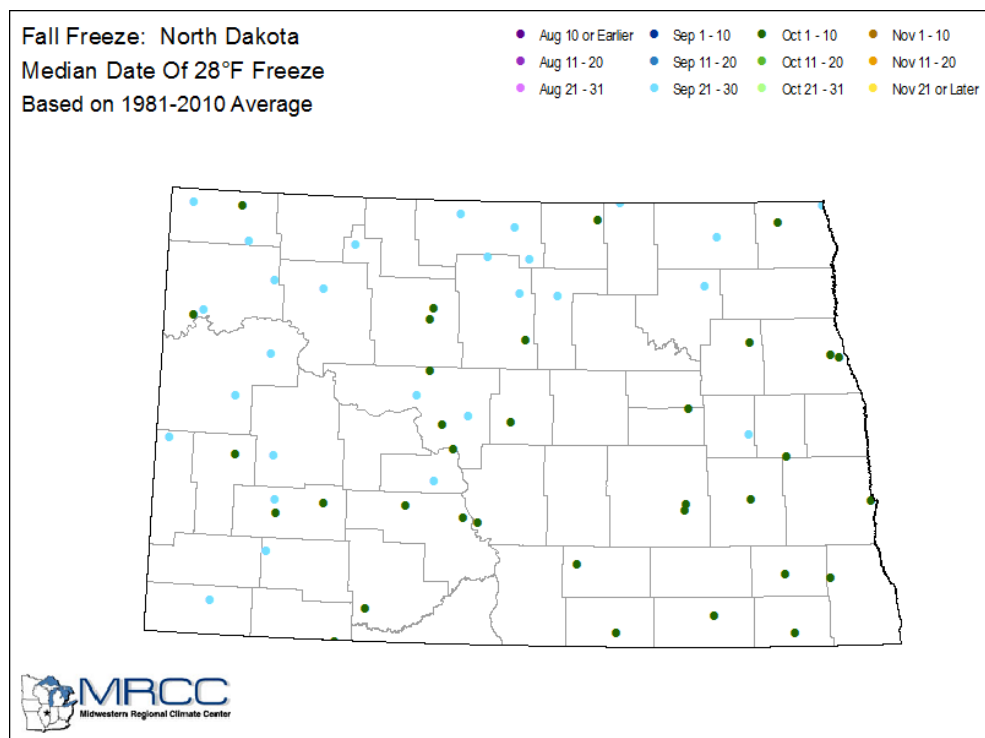


Figure 3) Median Date of 28°F Freeze Based on 1981 - 2010 Average.

Climatologically speaking, areas in western and central North Dakota that have not yet experienced freezing temperatures are likely to see freezing temperatures in the next two weeks, or by the end of September. Looking at the 6 to 10 day forecast from the Climate Prediction Center issued 14 September 2012 and valid September 20 through 24, 2012 there is an increasing confidence of below normal temperatures as you move from western into central North Dakota. There is a high confidence of below normal temperatures over the northern Great Lakes region.

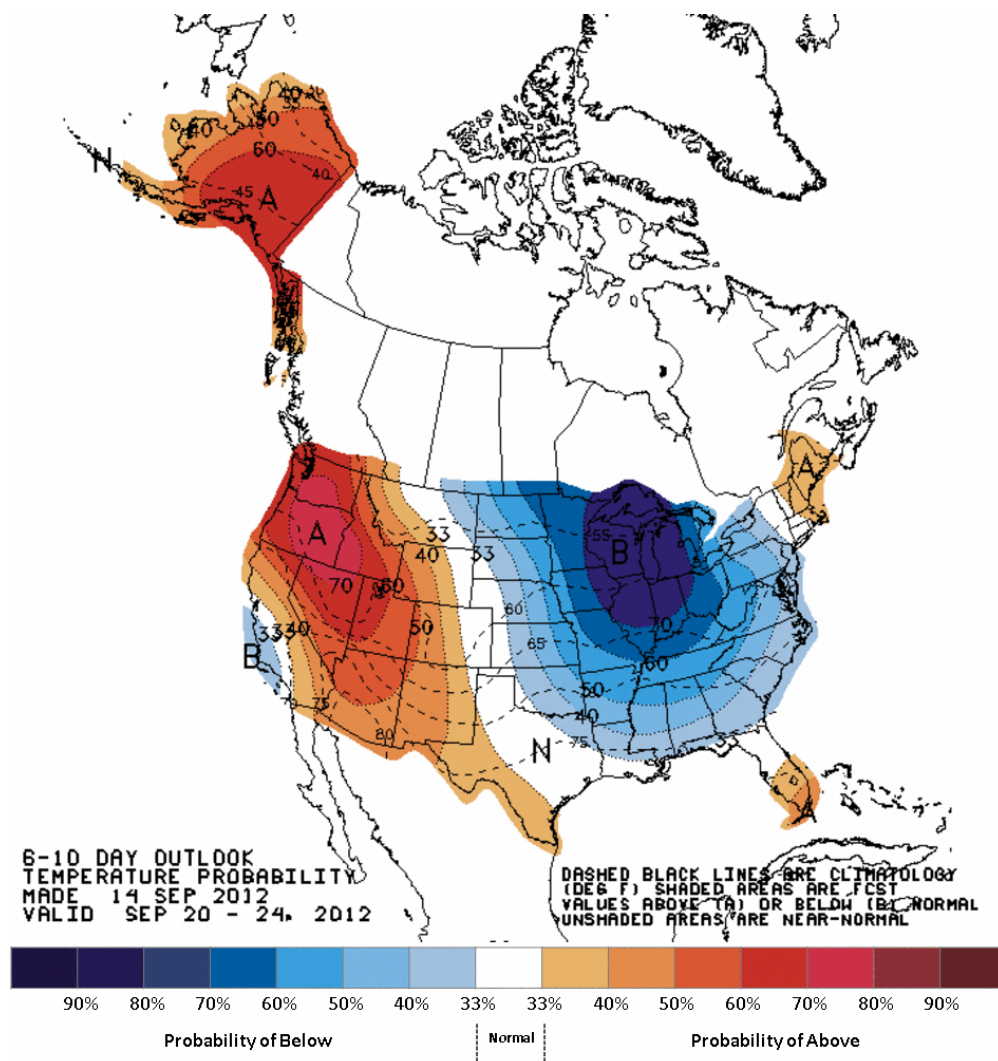


Figure 4) 6 - 10 Day Outlook Temperature Probability Valid Sep 20 - 24, 2012.

Gardeners in western and central North Dakota will want to keep a close eye on low temperature forecasts, and possible frost advisories, freeze watches, or freeze warnings during the next few weeks to protect any remaining outdoor vegetation.